UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, DC 20408

January 30, 1976

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Rt. 12
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act appeal dated January 3, 1976, in which you request access to various documents found among or related to the records of the Warren Commission which were denied to you on July 31, 1975, by Albert H. Leisinger, Jr., Acting Assistant Archivist for the National Archives. Your appeal was received in this office on January 6, 1976.

Three of the requested documents were originally classified by the Central Intelligence Agency. The National Archives does not have authority to declassify and release these documents to you. Therefore, your request for these documents has been referred to the CIA and they will inform you directly of their determination. These documents include the following:

1. Thomas H. Karamessiness, Deputy Director for Plans, CIA, to Robert H. Bahmer, Archivist of the United States, October 2, 1967.

2. Lawrence R. Houston, General Counsel, CIA, to James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States, December 22, 1972.

3. Charles E. Savige for Robert Young, Freedom of Information Coordinator, CIA, to James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States, May 20, 1975.

The remaining documents to which you were denied access are Commission originated documents some of which are security classified and others which are investigatory records. All of

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these documents have been forwarded to the Central Intelligence Agency as the agency of primary subject-matter interest for an opinion regarding the possible release of these documents. We have been informed by a representative of the CIA that because of a backlog of Freedom of Information Act requests they will not be able to complete their review of the documents for at least another month. We will, of course, inform you of the final decision regarding release of the documents as soon as possible. We sincerely regret the delay.

With regard to your statement concerning a ". . . . standing, prepaid request for all released documents . . ." /released Warren Commission documents/, I must inform you that the National Archives does not accept "standing" orders. It would be administratively impossible for us to accept "standing" requests from all of our researchers to provide copies of all documents related to their research area which become available over the course of time. Additionally, we do not believe that such "standing" requests fit the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

We will provide a substantive decision on the documents for which you have submitted this Freedom of Information Act appeal at the earliest possible moment. In the future we will respond to any individual requests for reasonably described records which you may submit, but we cannot accept "standing" requests.

Sincerely,

James E. O'Neill

JAMES E. O'NEILL
Deputy Archivist
of the United States